

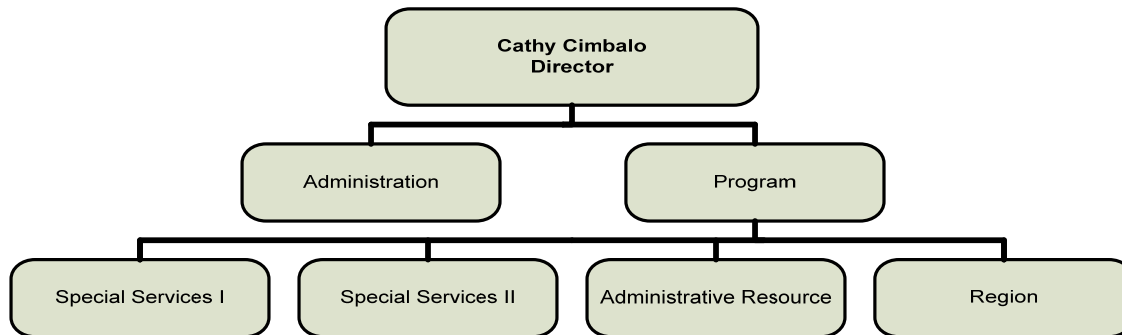
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Cathy Cimbalo

I. MISSION STATEMENT

To protect endangered children, preserve and strengthen their families, and develop alternative family settings. Services, as mandated by law and regulation, will be provided in the least intrusive manner with a family-centered focus. This mission is accomplished in collaboration with the family, a wide variety of public and private agencies, and members of the community.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



III. DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR SERVICES

The Department of Children's Services (DCS) is a collection of programs aimed at reducing the occurrence of child abuse and neglect in San Bernardino County. The primary goal of these programs is maintaining families whenever possible. When not possible, the secondary goal is to provide the best permanent plan for the child removed from his or her caretaker. To accomplish the mission of DCS, a wide variety of services are offered. Child Protective Services is the program with the highest visibility, with the goal of prevention of abuse to minors and the protection of those abused.

Other DCS programs include:

- Emergency Response (ER): investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect and makes immediate plans to ensure the safety of endangered children. This is often the "front door" for clients entering the Child Welfare System.
- Family Maintenance (FM): builds on families' strengths and helps to remove barriers so children can remain safely at home.
- Family Reunification (FR): works to make the family environment a safe one so children can return home.
- Permanency Planning (PP): ensures that children who are unable to live safely with their birth families can grow up in a safe and secure permanent living arrangement.
- Foster Parent Recruitment and Training, along with Foster Home Licensing: maintains and creates out-of-home placement resource options throughout the county.
- Adoptions: performs assessments of adoptive families and matches children with permanent families when their birth families are no longer an option.
- Independent Living Program: assists youth in successfully transitioning out of the foster care system.



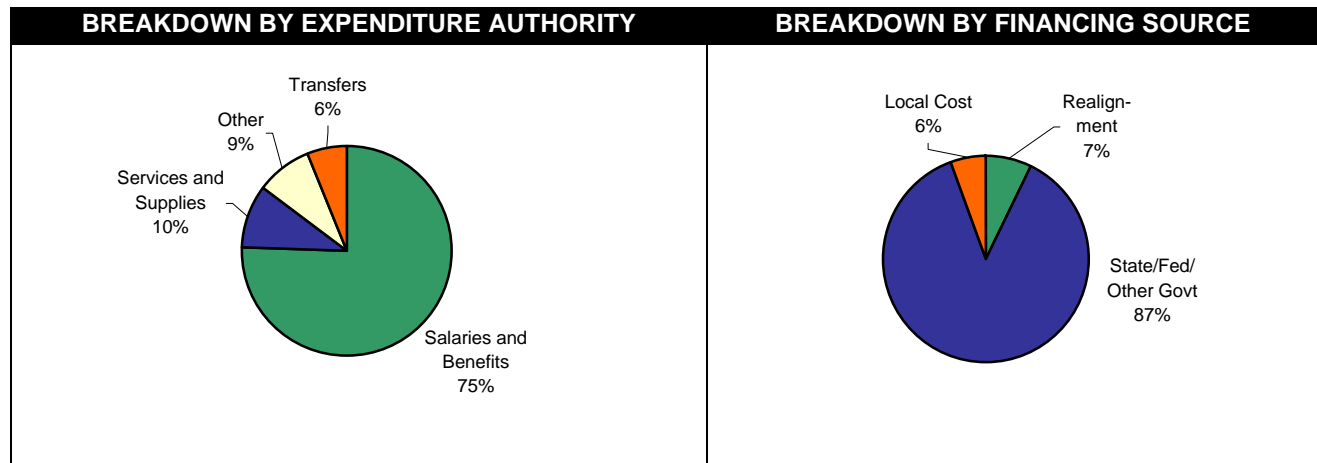
IV. 2005-06 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received and assessed approximately 58,779 child abuse referrals based on number of children involved in referrals.
- In collaboration with County Superintendent of Schools, developed a joint Educational Taskforce that served as the state model.
- Implemented "Family to Family" in Rialto and Victorville to maintain children in their communities.
- Trained staff and community partners on the following client centered services/programs: Wraparound, Family to Family, and Family Group Decision-Making.
- Established the Youth Advisory Board that invites DCS foster youth, foster staff, and significant adults to discuss foster care issues.
- Implemented Safe Measures, a program to enhance tracking of outcome measures and provide program management reports.
- Provided college scholarships to 82 youth.

V. 2006-07 SUMMARY OF BUDGET UNITS

	2006-07			
	Appropriation	Revenue	Local Cost	Staffing
Children's Services	93,292,597	81,288,577	12,004,020	826.0

VI. 2006-07 BUDGET



VII. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

GOAL 1: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ADOPTIONS.

Objective A: Increase number of home studies completed to expedite adoptive placements.

MEASUREMENT	2005-06 (Actual)	2006-07 (Projected)	2006-07 (Estimated)	2007-08 (Projected)
1A. Percentage increase in Children Adopted	N/A	3.2%	3.2%	5%

Status

DCS is committed to safety, well-being, and permanency in keeping with the agency's long standing mission and values and new legislation (AB 636, Outcomes and Accountability Act). AB 636 requires that DCS monitor and improve outcomes for the children and families served. Adoption, a focal point for improvement, is one of the permanency options available to children who are not able to safely reunify with their families of



origin. An analysis of local Child Welfare data, input from stakeholders, recommendations from the Self Assessment Team continues to indicate a need to focus on increasing the number of children who are adopted. Therefore, re-establishing the goal of increasing the number of adoptions for the 2007-08 Business Plan is in keeping with the Department's revised Self Improvement Plan approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2006 as a requirement of AB 636.

The number of completed home studies has not increased; efforts to increase the number will be made with the addition of a social worker assigned to do home studies.

GOAL 2:	INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FOSTER CHILDREN IN THE INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM THAT EARNED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR G.E.D.
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Objective A: Continue implementation of a system to identify and track the performance of child welfare dependents on the High School Proficiency (Exit) Exam.

Objective B: Secure/implement customized tutoring programs designed to address needs of exiting youth.

Objective C: Refer and ensure linkage to tutoring services for Juniors and Seniors experiencing difficulty passing the Proficiency exam.

MEASUREMENT	2005-06 (Actual)	2006-07 (Projected)	2006-07 (Estimated)	2007-08 (Projected)
2A. Percentage increase in Foster youth graduating with a high school diploma or G.E.D.	N/A	2%	2%	3%

Status

Foster Children exiting the Child Welfare system have received greater attention at the national and state level. According to the Pew Commission on Foster Care, Child Welfare League of America, and California Youth Connection, 20,000 teens per year age out of foster care. Forty-six percent (46%) of foster youth do not complete high school, compared to 16% in the general population. Of those exiting or aging out, 33% are below grade level in reading, writing and Math; 26% have a history of repeating a grade in Middle or High School; 60% have failed at least one class in the previous year; and 25%-33% become homeless after aging out of care. Many are found in the Juvenile Justice system. Concern exists as to how foster youth will perform on a structured High School Exit exam. Therefore, in the 2007-08 Business Plan the department continues to focus on taking steps to provide maximum support to foster youth to enhance their chances of succeeding on the examination and enhancing the likelihood of further successful endeavors. The goal of increasing the number of youth graduating from high school is consistent with the department's overall goal of improving outcomes for youth.

Target population identified and a tracking system from another county will be utilized until the State agrees to purchase software to be used by all counties. Anticipated State funding didn't materialize to hire staff for resource development and linkages to community resources. In addition to partnering with Foster Youth Services who have programs specific to this need, programs such as Tutors of America and Professional Tutors of the Inland Empire are being utilized. Resources through libraries, schools, and community groups are being explored. DCS is involved with representatives from County Schools and others on the Educational Task Force as well as linked to after school programs at the San Bernardino School District that provide remedial work to students to pass the exam.

VIII. 2006-07 APPROVED ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND FINANCING (POLICY ITEMS)

The department did not have any approved policy items for 2006-07.

IX. 2007-08 REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUND FINANCING (POLICY ITEMS)

The department is not requesting any additional general fund financing for 2007-08.



X. 2007-08 PROPOSED FEE ADJUSTMENTS

The department is not requesting any proposed fee adjustments for 2007-08.

If there are questions about this business plan, please contact Chuck Bruington, Program Specialist II, at (909) 388-0203.

